

South Dakota National Guard

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June 9, 2014

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

139th BSB conducts field training, provides community support

By Capt. Eli Carr
139th Brigade Support Battalion

MILLER, S.D. – The 139th Brigade Support Battalion hosted a field training exercise and community support event in Miller this weekend to demonstrate some of the unique capabilities of the South Dakota Army National Guard and give thanks to members of the surrounding community.

The exercise included tactical convoy lanes training with aerial medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) support, as well as a citywide clean-up project and open house event. Soldiers from the 139th BSB's Headquarters and Headquarters Company, of Brookings, Company A, of Watertown, and Company B of Mitchell, participated in the event.

In late 2012, Detachment 2, Company A, 139th BSB, stationed in Miller was reassigned to Watertown. In an effort to reengage with the city and surrounding communities after more than 50 years of service, the 139th wanted to give back to the community that gave them so much support.

The event began with a citywide clean-up where flat racks were preposition throughout Miller and Saint Lawrence. Items placed at these locations were hauled by the BSB to either the local metal recycling center or the county landfill.

Training highlights for the weekend included a tactical convoy scenario and casualty evacuation exercise, which integrated the aerial support platforms of a UH-60 Black Hawk and LUH-72 Lakota helicopters from Company C, 1-189th Aviation Regiment, and Company B, 1-112th Aviation Regiment, both of Rapid City. The scenario simulated the evacuation of wounded Soldiers from the battlefield.

After conducting litter training at the Miller Municipal Airport, the Soldiers prepared for a logistics support convoy that included several specialized vehicles used within the 139th BSB. The tactical convoy lane simulated enemy contact and injuries, where Soldiers then called for MEDEVAC airlift support. The Lakota provided site surveillance via live feed allowing the 139th BSB operations center to have visibility of the battlefield.

Both helicopters were critical in providing Soldier with the most realistic training opportunity and allowed for some Soldiers to experience aerial operations for the first time.

Soldiers also participated in other tactical convoy lanes facilitated by the members of HHC, 139th BSB, allowing for each unit to conduct a variety of tactical convoy scenarios critical to survival on the battlefield.

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Community members were invited to observe the exercise operations and joined the Soldiers in an open house hosted by the 139th and the Recruiting Retention Command. The community and Soldier's families were able to observe a variety of equipment used throughout the battalion and speak with Soldiers.

Due to the legacy of military service from families within the Miller community, many retirees and family members of Soldiers assigned to the 139th BSB were in attendance.

Soldiers of the 139th were also appreciate and gave thanks to the family of Sgt. 1st Class Dean Simons for the many years they have allowed the South Dakota Army National Guard use their land as a training area and was critical to the success of this event.

This event would not have been a success without the support of the Miller community, Miller High School and the SDARNG's 1-189th and 1-112th units.

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High resolution photos are available at www.flickr.com/southdakotationalguard



140606-Z-AB123-001: A South Dakota Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter from Company C, 1-189th Aviation Regiment, lands in a field near Miller, S.D., during a field training exercise for the 139th Brigade Support Battalion June 6, 2014. The 139th exercise included tactical convoy lanes training with aerial medical evacuation support, as well as a citywide clean-up project and open house event with the city of Miller and surrounding communities. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Floyd Mabbitt)(RELEASED)



140606-Z-AB123-002: South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, transport a simulated injured patient to a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter from Company C, 1-189th Aviation Regiment, in a field near Miller, S.D., during a field training exercise June 6, 2014. The 139th exercise included tactical convoy lanes training with aerial medical evacuation support, as well as a citywide clean-up project and open house event with the city of Miller and surrounding communities. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Floyd Mabbitt)(RELEASED)



140606-Z-AB123-003: South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, load a simulated injured patient onto a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter from Company C, 1-189th Aviation Regiment, in a field near Miller, S.D., during a field training exercise June 6, 2014. The 139th exercise included tactical convoy lanes training with aerial medical evacuation support, as well as a citywide clean-up project and open house event with the city of Miller and surrounding communities. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Floyd Mabbitt)(RELEASED)



140606-Z-AB123-004: South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, conduct an after action report near Miller, S.D., during a field training exercise June 6, 2014. The 139th exercise included tactical convoy lanes training with aerial medical evacuation support, as well as a citywide clean-up project and open house event with the city of Miller and surrounding communities. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Spc. Floyd Mabbitt)(RELEASED)



140606-Z-AB123-005: South Dakota Army National Guard Soldiers from Company B, 139th Brigade Support Battalion, provide field maintenance near Miller, S.D., during a field training exercise June 6, 2014. The 139th exercise included tactical convoy lanes training with aerial medical evacuation support, as well as a citywide clean-up project and open house event with the city of Miller and surrounding communities. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Capt. Lucas Scheibe)(RELEASED)

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